



City of Lafayette Police Department

Newsletter

August 13, 2019

Greetings,

This newsletter will cover several topics, some of which have been included in previous newsletters, but continue to be a priority as we enter the fire season. In this newsletter, I will be covering PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), emergency preparedness, and of course, the case highlights from the last three months.

School is starting, and Lafayette Police staff will be on school campuses during the first week to welcome kids back to school. Traffic conditions will worsen in the morning and afternoon during the school year; please drive safely. Driving at the speed limit, scanning for pedestrians and bicyclists, proceeding cautiously through crosswalks and intersections, can make the difference for our friends, neighbors, and children. The PD will continue our "Recess with a Cop" program, and we look forward to having an active presence at all of our Lafayette schools.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Chief Ben Alldritt

PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

In June 2019, PG&E began publicly warning of the possibility of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) in the event conditions warranted it. Please visit the City of Lafayette's webpage at www.lovelafayette.org, click on the "Residents" tab and select PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoff for more information and how to prepare for a power outage.

PG&E advises that no single factor will drive a Public Safety Power Shutoff and have provided some factors that will be considered:

- A red flag warning declared by the National Weather Service
- Low humidity levels; generally, 20% and below
- Forecasted sustained winds generally above 25 mph and wind gusts in excess of approximately 45 mph; depending on location and site-specific conditions such as temperature, terrain, and local climate
- Condition of dry fuel on the ground and live vegetation (moisture content)
- On-the-ground, real-time observations from PG&E's Wildfire Safety Operations Center and field observations from PG&E crews



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PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoff program includes all electric lines that pass through high fire-threat areas – both distribution and transmission. Electric lines most likely to be considered are those that pass-through areas that have been designated by the CPUC as at elevated (Tier 2) or extreme (Tier 3) risk for wildfire. The energy system relies on power lines working together to provide electricity, meaning any PG&E customer could have their power shut off. Per the CPUC Fire Threat Map, many areas of Lamorinda are designated as Tier 2 or Tiers 3.

PG&E advises that their goal, dependent on weather, is to provide customers with advance notice prior to turning off the power and provide updates until power is restored. PG&E advised their time of notifications (when possible) are as follows:

- 48 hours before electricity is turned off
- 24 hours before electricity is turned off
- Just before electricity is turned off
- During the public safety outage
- Once power has been restored

PG&E advises they will attempt to reach customers through calls, texts, and emails. They will also use social media and keep local news and radio outlets informed and updated. PG&E also advised they will make every attempt to provide notice to City and County agencies in advance of notifying customers.

PG&E advised they will only restore power when they are certain it is safe to do so. PG&E will have to conduct a visually inspect lines, poles, and towers for potentially weather-related damage and fix any damage prior to energizing electric lines. PG&E advises they should be able to conduct this process within 24 to 48 hours after the extreme weather has passed.

**** The above PG&E information was provided via the PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program in a presentation made to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District on June 24, 2019.**

All government agencies within the PG&E service area, along with residents and businesses, are faced with challenges during a prolonged power shutoff.



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Police and Fire departments have historically prepared for power interruptions during emergencies, such as earthquakes and fires, to allow for the continuation of services. This is an ongoing process that evaluates current and emerging technologies, along with associated fiscal impacts.

Immediately after being made aware of PG&E's proposed Public Safety Power Shutoffs, Lafayette City Staff began meeting to evaluate the City's current capabilities during a multi-day shutoff, specifically continuity of government and ability to respond to a critical incident during a PSPS. City Staff reviewed staffing levels and what staff would be required during a PSPS.

As with any endeavor in Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, it is a challenge to determine what will be required while being cognizant of the associated costs and the fiscal impact to the City's budget. The City of Lafayette has always strived to be prepared for emergencies and has done well in this respect. Public Safety Power Shutoffs are presenting a new challenge for everyone. The high probability of a PSPS occurring annually and more than once a year forces public agencies to review their level of preparedness during a prolonged power outage. This review process will be ongoing and evaluated after each PSPS.

Emergencies

DO THIS NOW !!!

Increase Your Chances of Being Notified in an Emergency

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services maintains our **Community Warning System (CWS)**. CWS is generally used only for life-threatening incidents. The CWS can call every AT&T landline in the County in just a few seconds. It can also call VoIP phones (Voice over Internet, such as Comcast, Vonage, Magic Jack, or others that rely on the internet) and cell phones, but **ONLY** if they are registered with the system. If you have a cell or VoIP phone, *you **must** register with the Community Warning System* for them to be able to alert you. Your information will be kept confidential and will not be used for any other purposes.

To register Cell phones, VoIP phones or to subscribe to text messages and emails go to <http://cococws.com/>.



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In times of emergency or disaster, Lafayette Police and the City will initially communicate through NIXLE and CWS alerts. Everyone can sign up for **free**. It only takes a couple of minutes of your time but could make a difference in an emergency. We also use Nextdoor and Facebook to share information, but our primary focus for delivery messages during an emergency is CWS, followed by Nixle alerts.

NIXLE Alerts – Residents who have not yet subscribed are urged to subscribe to the alerting system that we perform through the Nixle Alert System. For significant incidents and disasters within the community, this is the primary system that will be used to provide our residents with information about events. You can subscribe to Nixle Alerts by visiting the Nixle Website (www.nixle.com) - Again, this is a free service for our residents. You will receive a text alert when notifications are sent out by the Lafayette Police or City Officials.

Emergency Alert System (EAS) - This is the system that most of us grew up with that utilizes broadcasters, cable services, and satellite companies to transmit information to the public in a time of disaster. During an emergency, authorities can use this system to broadcast on television and radio networks.

Local Media - In a time of emergency, local government will be providing information to local media sites (the East Bay Times, News 24/680, the Lamorinda Patch, the Lamorinda Weekly, etc.) and local broadcasters (KCBS Radio and TV).

Pulse Point - Pulse Point is a free application that runs on your smart device (either IOS or Android). The application can be set up to follow your local fire service / first responders and will alert you when they are dispatched. The app also can monitor radio traffic and provide first-hand information from the emergency scene.

The Community Warning System can also send messages via **NOAA Weather Radios**. The radio needs to be equipped with "Specific Area Message Encoding" (S.A.M.E.) technology. Once the radio is set for our County, it will sound an alarm when activated by CWS. The alarm is quite loud, so put the radio in a location where it will wake you if the emergency occurs during sleeping hours.

A popular example of this type of radio is the Midland WR120 NOAA Weather Alert Radio.



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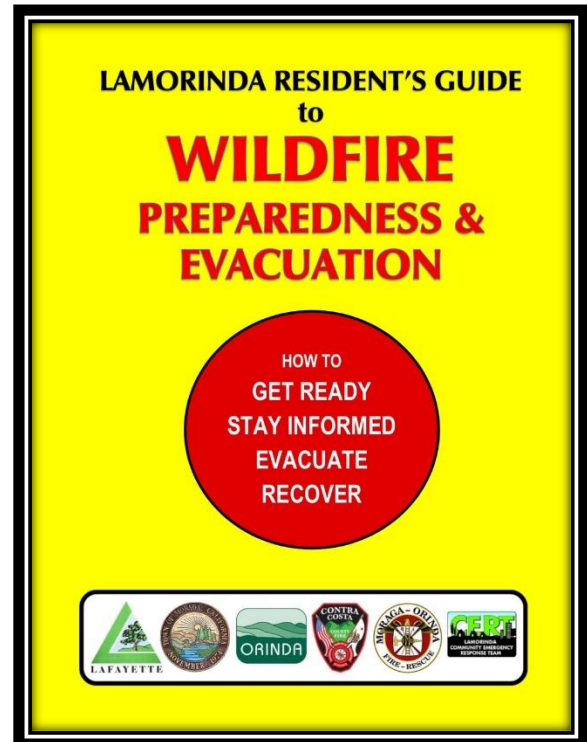
Interested in Disaster Preparedness?

Join a local CERT Class. CERTs are residents who have taken training on how to aid us all in disaster. For more information, see their website –

www.lamorindacert.org

If you did not receive a copy of the Lamorinda Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness & Evacuation, please stop by the Lafayette Police Department or Lafayette City Offices during business hours to get a free copy.

This guide contains the essentials for individuals and families in emergency preparedness and evacuation. The content is similar to what residents would receive in an emergency preparedness presentation from CERT, fire, and police departments. The guide can also be downloaded from the City of Lafayette website.





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CRIME UPDATE

The following is a summary of some of the arrests and investigations the Lafayette Police Department handled in between May and July 2019.

**** The Lafayette Police Department utilizes the online system CrimeReports to provide police call information for our citizens. Agencies from around the nation provide crime and call data to the site for citizens to view at no cost. It is an interactive map that allows you to set filters, to include date and type of incident. Please visit www.crimereports.com.**

May Case Highlights

Case Update from April 30, 2019, four suspects were responsible for stealing laptops from customers at Peets Coffee in Lafayette. Two suspects were arrested later in the day in Oakland. All four suspects have now been identified, and the District Attorney's Office filed robbery charges on three of the suspects.

May 5, 2019, over the course of two days, multiple auto burglaries occurred in Lafayette. Lafayette Officers were able to identify two suspects and determined they were responsible for auto burglaries throughout Contra Costa and Alameda counties. Both suspects were arrested, and the District Attorney's Office filed 13 counts of burglary, felony theft, and felony vandalism.

May 26, 2019, at approximately 2:40 p.m., a non-profit animal rescue was holding an adoption event at Pet Food Express. A dog that was up for adoption was stolen by a female. On June 1, the dog was located in San Francisco by a San Francisco Sheriff's Deputy. Lafayette Detectives were able to identify the suspect and obtain an arrest warrant. The suspect was later located and arrested. The suspect confessed to the theft, and the case was filed with the District Attorney's Office.

On May 26, 2019, at approximately 8:28 hours, Moraga PD was dispatched to a reported armed robbery at a gas station involving a gun and knife. A Lafayette Officer located the suspect vehicle on Mt. Diablo Blvd. The vehicle fled, and a pursuit was initiated. The suspect vehicle entered eastbound SR-24 and continued to northbound I-680. A Sheriff's Office Valley Station Deputy joined the pursuit on I-680 near Treat Blvd. The suspect vehicle then entered SR-242 and continued to eastbound SR-4.



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The suspect vehicle took the Hillcrest Ave. exit and collided with a civilian vehicle at the intersection of Hillcrest Ave. and E. Tregallas Rd. The civilian driver was not injured.

The driver of the suspect vehicle fled on foot and assisting units arrived at the termination point of the pursuit. The driver was apprehended by Sheriff's Deputies. The two remaining suspects surrendered and were taken into custody. A handgun, masks, the cash drawer, and money from the robbery were in the suspect vehicle. All three suspects were juveniles. Moraga PD arrived and took custody of the suspects.

June Case Highlights

June 6, 2019, during the night, a suspect entered a vehicle and stole several items of value to include electronics containing GPS. Lafayette Officers were able to track the device to a homeless encampment in Martinez. With the assistance of Martinez PD, property was recovered from a tent, and an arrest was made for possession of stolen property. Shortly afterward, an unknown transient turned in additional property at the Martinez Police Station. The case has been filed with the District Attorney's Office.

June 12, 2019, a tree fell on Ameno Drive, causing tension on high voltage power lines. The increased tension on the power lines caused one of the power line poles to break at the base and fall across the roadway. Power lines are down across several hundred yards of Ameno Drive; causing a power outage to the immediate neighborhood. Messages were sent out via NextDoor and Nixle. PG&E had an extended response time, and a Community Warning System (CWS) Alert was sent to the immediate area due to concerns of downed, energized power lines. Everything was resolved safely.

On June 13, 2019, at approximately 10:55 a.m., a family walking on the trail off of Pleasant Hill and Olympic located a person hanging from a tree in the creek bed. Officers arrived on scene and found the person just north of the Eastbay Regional Parks trail, approximately 50 yards west of the EBRP staging area just off Olympic, near Pleasant Hill Rd. Officers determined the person was deceased from an apparent suicide and was identified as a local high school student.

On June 17, 2019, at approximately 12:19 p.m., a female suspect stole items from a local store and attempted to assault an employee as she was trying to escape with stolen merchandise. Lafayette Officers responded and located the suspect. While she was detained, standing on the sidewalk, she pulled her pants down, exposing her genitalia, squatted and defecated on the sidewalk. At the jail, it was determined she had provided a false name and had three warrants for theft and brandishing a weapon.



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On June 27, 2019, at approximately 1:26 p.m., Lafayette Officers were dispatched to a welfare check involving a male with a gun with an infant child and the child's mother. Officers located the vehicle they were traveling in and made an enforcement stop. During the contact, Officers located a loaded firearm in the male's right front pants pocket. He was arrested for possession of a loaded firearm in public and a concealed weapon in a vehicle.

July Case Highlights

On July 1, 2019, a suspect(s) stole multiple items from several cars. A victim was able to track their iPad to Oakland and identify the vehicle it was in. Detectives were notified and determined the vehicle was stolen. Later Oakland PD pursued the vehicle and driver crashed. Lafayette towed the vehicle for processing, and the investigation is ongoing.

On July 1, 2019, at approximately 11:27 a.m., a suspect(s) broke into a home and stole several items. The following day, a suspect was arrested by Dublin PD in possession of all the stolen property from the Lafayette residential burglary. Lafayette Detectives responded and interviewed the suspect. Detectives have linked the suspect to additional crimes in another jurisdiction, and the investigation is ongoing.

On July 5, 2019, at approximately 3:32 p.m., a suspect stole a laptop from a customer at Starbucks and fled in a waiting vehicle. Detectives were able to determine the vehicle was associated with a purse snatch in Walnut Creek and placed a felony want on the vehicle. The vehicle was later located by Sacramento PD, and they assisted in identifying the suspect who has outstanding warrants. The investigation is ongoing.

July 5, 2019, at approximately 1:00 p.m., a Lafayette Officer made an enforcement stop on a vehicle for traffic violations. The Officer determined that both occupants were on probation for theft related charges. During a search of the vehicle, stolen property from Home Depot was located. The driver was arrested for theft and violation of his probation.

July 15, 2019, at approximately 10:47 a.m., a suspect broke into a home and stole several items. Officers were able to locate a potential suspect using neighborhood cameras. The suspect was linked to a felony investigation in another local jurisdiction. Lafayette Detectives are working with the other agency, and the investigation is ongoing.



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On July 20, 2019, Lafayette PD hosted the annual Lamorinda Safety Fair and Motorcycle Competition. Multiple emergency services agencies participated. There were Command Vehicles, SWAT vehicles, fire trucks, police vehicles, along with several other vehicles and booths. Over forty motor officers from various agencies participated in the motorcycle competition. The competition raised over \$10,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Walnut Creek.

Auto Burglaries

Auto burglaries continue to be one of Lafayette's most frequently reported crime. The Police Department continues to utilize technology to help prevent and solve these crimes.

Please continue to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious. We appreciate our residents and business owners who are active participants in combating crime by installing cameras.



What should you do to prevent auto burglaries?

- Beware of leaving laptops, tablets, cell phones, briefcases, purses in plain sight when making a quick stop for an errand, coffee, or food.
- Lock your car at all times when it is unattended.
- Never leave items of value in your vehicle.
- Items of value in the trunk are not safe if you leave the car unlocked – most cars have a trunk release inside the car.
- Never leave your wallet or purse inside the car, even if it is in your garage (sometimes people forget to close the garage door at night).
- Roll all your windows up when you leave your car.
- At night, park your car in a well-lit area.
- If possible, park your vehicle in a location where it is under video surveillance.



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Lafayette Police Department Tip Email

For some time now, the Lafayette Police Department has used 94549tip@gmail.com as a way for our citizens to send information to us. The tip email is a great way to request a vacation home check and pass on information of concern in your neighborhood or in the City of Lafayette. Things such as traffic (speeding) concerns, suspicious activity that is not currently occurring, parking issues, etc.

On occasion, we receive tip emails of a suspicious circumstance and/or person that is occurring at that moment. Due to potential delays in tip emails reaching the on-duty officers, I would encourage residents to call the non-emergency Dispatch phone line to report the incident. For active suspicious activity, this ensures that Dispatch relays the information to the on-duty officers and we can respond appropriately. Police radios are the most efficient and reliable way for dispatchers to contact officers in the field.

The Lafayette Police non-emergency phone line is (925) 284-5010.

Vacation Home Checks

The Lafayette Police Department Vacation Home Check program is alive and well. If you are interested in having us check on your home while you are away, please visit <http://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/city-departments/police/vacation-home-checks>.

This service is provided free of charge. If you have any questions, we can be reached at 94549TIP@gmail.com or give us a call at (925) 283-3680.